



Our Valley Voice
February
2021

JESUS REPLIED: "LOVE THE
LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART
AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL AND WITH ALL
YOUR MIND.' THIS IS THE FIRST AND
GREATEST COMMANDMENT. AND THE
SECOND IS LIKE IT: 'LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR
AS YOURSELF.'" MATTHEW
22:37-
39

OUR MISSION

To make Christ known through reconciliation while communicating respect and love to all people.

The principles we will follow to accomplish this are:

- Worship that glorifies God.
- Growing our faith in love, hope and the peace of Christ.
 - Caring for the children of God.
- Reaching out to the community and the world.
 - Seeking an attitude of servant-hood.

Valley Presbyterian Church

2800 S Camino Del Sol
Green Valley, AZ 85622
(520) 625-5023

vpc-office@valleypres.net
www.valleypresbyterian.net

Member of Presbytery de Cristo in The
Synod of the Southwest,
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Pastors

Rev. Dr. Craig Lindsey,
Pastor/Head of Staff

Rev. Diane Christopher,
Pastor of Discipleship

Rev. Joe Hawkins,
Pastor Emeritus

Sunday Worship
Traditional Service of Worship
9:30 a.m.
Online and In person.

Taizé Service
5pm Online
Every week in Lent:
Feb 17– March 31

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Lenten Devotional

About a week or so before Lent begins (February 17), members of Valley will receive a Lenten Devotional in the mail called "The Sanctuary for Lent." Brought to you by the Faith Formation committee, this devotional contains daily scripture readings, a short devotion and a prayer to help you faithfully journey through Lent. If you are not a member or do not receive a devotional, extras will be available on the Welcome Centers near the sanctuary or in the church office. Or, contact Pastor Diane to have one mailed to you (pastordiane@valleypres.net; 625-5023). Let us all walk together during this season of Lent to prepare for the joy of the Resurrection.

Staff

Pastor Craig LindseyPastor/Head of Staff pastorcraig@@valleypres.net
Pastor Diane Christopher...Pastor of Discipleship.....dianechristopher@valleypres.net
Jamie Reed Director of Music..... jamie@valleypres.net
Wes MoultonOrganist/Accompanist..... wmoulton@valleypres.net
Chris EricksonParish Nurse..... parishnurse@valleypres.net
Suzanne MandevilleBookkeeper suzanne@valleypres.net
Laurie AllenExecutive Secretary..... laurie@valleypres.net
Carla GoingsAdministrative Specialist..... carla@valleypres.net
Joe SnowLead Custodian custodians@valleypres.net
Ray Esparza.....Custodian custodians@valleypres.net
Bob LopesCustodian custodians@valleypres.net
Dick HornWeb Designwer rrhorn@mac.com
Alice SanchezNursery Attendant..... vpc-office@valleypres.net
Gee-Gee SmithValley Voice Editor tubacgee@gmail.com

Grief Recovery Workshop **Mondays, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00p.m.** **March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29** **Sweet Family Room**

This has been a year of great loss in so many ways. The cruelty of the pandemic is keeping families from grieving the loss of a loved one together. Therefore, we are offering a Grief Recovery Workshop.

The purpose of the workshop is to discover the stages of the grief process, find healthy ways to deal with the pain and loss, and to begin the healing process. To guide you is Lynne Szabo, a marriage and family counselor.



Contact Pastor Diane to reserve your spot
(pastordiane@valleypres.net;
625-5023). Space is limited.

Rev. Dr. Craig Lindsey, Pastor, Head



I would like to share with you something I recently stated to the Personnel Committee.

Because of our past, we will always be an anxious system, who are triggered perhaps even more than other churches we have each known. We are doing wonderfully and working well to heal what was damaged and to be healthier and more vibrant for the future. I look forward to talking with each person about their concerns. If this had been a normal year, I would have tried to make contact or a visit to get to know everyone affiliated with our church, to better understand your needs. But this has not been a normal year.

This has been an exceedingly troubling time throughout God's creation and our own Nation.

Increasingly over the last several decades we have become more and more partisan and divisive, to the extent that no matter what is said, the act of speaking to concerns is at times taken out of context. Added to everything that has occurred in the last 12 months, on the Day of Epiphany, our Nation's Capital was desecrated. The following morning, we recorded Worship stating up-front that it is hard to say anything of meaning, because we know that by Sunday morning, or next week, next month, next year, circumstances will have changed. On Saturday January 9th, our church received an Epistle from the Bishops and Executives of our own Presbytery and All of the Christian churches across Arizona. This was intended as a non-partisan statement, which at the same time speaks to our faith concerns at this violation, and humanity as a whole's need for repentance. To have not spoken out would have also been wrong. Some have questioned whether this violated the separation of Church and State? The Constitutional separation of Church and State refers to prohibition of the Government telling the church what we can say and do, but does not reference the church speaking to world affairs. Coming from the leadership of all of the Christian churches across our State, I believe that was important Epistle to share, and for transparency it is printed here in the Valley Voice for everyone to be able to read. Some have asked that we take additional positions or sign petitions. While that would have to be done by our Session, not by committees of the church, as your Pastor I have said "no," because we know the body of Christ is very diverse and I do not want to divide us, I look forward to our praying for one another and working together.

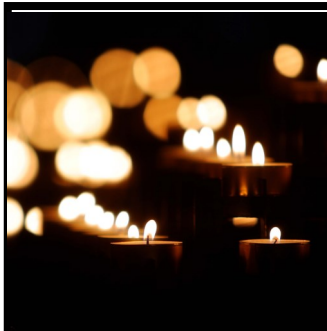
I hope you will join me in praying for peace, unity and purity.

Craig Lindsey, Pastor

FROM THE PASTOR con't

THE STATE OF OUR CHURCH

Our Session and Deacons and Committees all are meeting. We are praying for the needs of our members and community. We have replaced the Sound System and Lighting, and created a video recorded worship service that also serves LaPosada. I am delighted to share with you that because of your support and careful prudent spending, for the second year in a row, we have ended the year with a positive surplus! Earlier in 2020 The CARES Act provided corporations with a Payroll Protection Program (PPP). Our church leaders applied for this program and fulfilled all of the requirements. At year end we also have an amount equivalent to that full \$100,000 in reserve. Recently we have been alerted to how churches and non-profits can apply to make this PPP, a Grant which needs no repayment.



Lenten Taizé Online Wednesdays in Lent February 17 – March 31

Every Wednesday in Lent beginning on February 17, we will have a Taizé service based on the Stations of the Cross. The Stations of the Cross follow the path of Jesus on his way to the crucifixion.

The Stations of the Cross have been celebrated by our Catholic brothers and sisters for centuries. We Protestant Christians can partake in this rich pilgrimage as they remind us how far Jesus went to save us, and what a miracle it truly is that He rose from the grave.

Each Taizé service will contain two stations of the cross (there are 14 total), and will give you opportunities to think, pray, sing and mediate at each station. It is an intentional way to spend time with Christ, giving thanks and praise.

You can view the Taizé worship service every Wednesday in Lent on the church's website: valleypres.net. The worship will be ready to view by 5 p.m. each Wednesday.



From a Native American Church in MI

Diane Christopher: Pastor of Discipleship

I am so looking forward to the church season of Lent this year. Probably because it suits my personality – quiet and reflective allowing for opportunities to go deeper with God. And probably because our country is in such turmoil that I long for the peace and hope of Lent.



Lent is the 40 days before Easter (not including Sundays) beginning on Ash Wednesday; this year on February 17. Ash Wednesday is so named because of the ashes people receive on their foreheads to symbolize our grief for the things we've done wrong. I grieve this year because the pandemic will not allow us to have ashes placed on our foreheads. It provides too much human contact with the ashes and each other.

Ash Wednesday reminds us of our sins that result in division of imperfect people from a perfect God. This Ash Wednesday will remind us of the divide from each other. Lord Jesus Christ, hear our prayer.

Even though we cannot have ashes, we as a church will provide other avenues to guide you through Lent. Each Wednesday evening in Lent, starting on Ash Wednesday, we will provide Taizé worship based on the Stations of the Cross. Read my article in this newsletter for more information. Faith Formation is providing three classes during Lent:

On Mondays, *Lent in Plain View*, a Zoom class on how God works through ordinary objects.

On Wednesdays, *Jesus: The God Who Knows Your Name*, a Zoom class exploring the life of Jesus by looking at the details.

On Thursdays, *The Color of Compromise*, a Zoom class on the call for Christians to respond to racial injustice in the church.

Details on all these classes are in this newsletter.

For all of you, Faith Formation will provide a daily Lenten devotional called *The Sanctuary for Lent*. If you are a church member, it will be mailed to you. Extra copies will be available for all at the Welcome Centers and in the church office.

I hope you will journey with me in this Lenten season. We need it so. Our minds have been battered by political turmoil and our bodies beaten down by a virus. Partake in what we offer – the devotional for spiritual healing, the classes to provide community, learning and prayer together, the Taizé worship to soothe our aching souls.

I love you all,

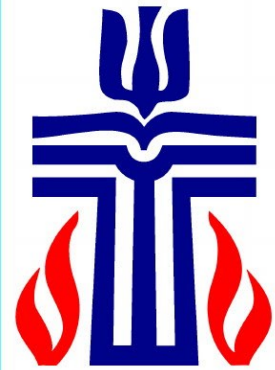
Pastor Diane

A Letter from Ecumenical Leadership

January 8, 2021

Dear Siblings in Christ,

As bishops and judicatory heads of churches in Arizona, we are compelled to speak after the violent assault on the United States Capitol building and our electoral process Wednesday.



There is much that can and will be said and done in the days ahead, but we wish to elevate a few key thoughts that relate to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

- We have one savior, who is Jesus. We believe that there is no human being, institution, or group that can be elevated to a position equal to or higher than our Lord.
- Jesus preached a non-violent Gospel. He chose to die on the cross rather than take up arms. And yet he changed everything. We believe that non-violence is the legitimate form of protest.
- Law enforcement should have the resources to protect the nation's capitol and the legislative branch of our government. We observe that the police resources deployed for Wednesday's violent actions were substantially fewer than those deployed in the summer of 2020 during mostly peaceful protests for racial justice. We also observe that those attacking the capitol Wednesday were mostly White, while the protesters over the summer included many people of color. We join other civic voices in asking for answers as to why this is so, and an examination of the policies that left our government so vulnerable to Wednesday's attack.
- For those who committed or incited Wednesday's violent acts, the Gospel requires repentance, accountability, and justice. Repentance is internal work—it is up to each individual to wrestle with their conscience and their faith about how they have sinned. Accountability and justice are external. Those require the work of the institutions of government and society. We call upon local law enforcement, the Justice Department, and our elected officials to ensure that those who committed crimes Wednesday are held to account.
- To that end, let us offer our own first step of repentance: we, as leaders, have sometimes chosen the easier path in not publically denouncing words and actions that we saw as contrary to the Gospel. We did not want to be accused of bringing partisan politics into the church; we did not want to alienate our members. Our silence has enabled the escalation of rhetoric and violence. Neither the rule of law, nor the following of Jesus are partisan endeavors; and we pledge to speak and act more courageously on behalf of the Gospel today and in the days ahead.
- Finally, as leaders of faith communities we are reminded that hope and love are linked together as necessary steps in this journey. Therefore, we proclaim our hope that the shocking events of Wednesday will call us all--beginning with ourselves--to walk the way of love not only with friends but also enemies, not merely with neighbors but also strangers. It is past time that we relearn how to speak the truth in love to one another both for naming injustices

as well as asserting the God given dignity of all persons. May we, Christ's Church, lead the way toward rebuilding our democratic institutions as a nation through active participation in open, transparent and respectful dialogue.

January 6 was the Feast of the Epiphany in our traditions—the day we remember the three Wise Men bringing gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to the baby Jesus. But the story is not just about Jesus and the Wise Men—it is also a story of King Herod. Matthew's Gospel says that Herod was so enraged and threatened by the prospect of an infant rival that he killed all the babies in Bethlehem under the age of two out of fear. The Epiphany is a story about how the love of God and human evil exist in our world at the same time.

In our lives, we are faced daily with choices about whether we will side with the love of God, or with human evil. Our Gospel and our faith teach us the right answer to that question. And we call upon our members and Christians throughout Arizona to stand up and take non-violent action to protect the life and freedom that we have been given in this nation.

Faithfully,

The Rev. Jay R. Hartley
Regional Minister and President
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Arizona

The Rev. Dr. Robert T. Hoshibata
Resident Bishop
The Desert Southwest Conference
The United Methodist Church

The Rev. Deborah K. Hutterer
Bishop, Grand Canyon Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The Rev. Dr. William M. Lyons
Conference Minister
Southwest Conference of the United Church of Christ

The Rev. Brad Munroe
Pastor to the Presbytery
Grand Canyon and de Cristo Presbyteries
Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA)

The Rt. Rev. Jennifer A. Reddall
Sixth Bishop of Arizona
The Episcopal Church

Dr. Warren H. Stewart, Sr.
Chairperson
African American Christian Clergy Coalition

Patio Sale News



The question of whether or not we will have a patio sale this spring is still up in the air. Forging ahead depends on so many unknowns that we cannot say for certain that we will have the sale, but we do know that we must plan for a sale in order to be ready in case conditions improve.

On January 12th, the Patio Sale Planning Committee met to begin that planning. This committee is made up of volunteers of patio sale workers who agreed to take on this task. The group established some guidelines to aid in planning. These are some of those guidelines:

If it is safe enough to do so, we will hold a sale sometime this spring.

We assume that there will still be a need to follow COVID-19 protocols of taking temperatures, controlling the number of people in any area at once, taking contact information for tracing, wearing masks, and sterilizing areas as much as possible.

As much of the sale as possible will be held outside where there is more air circulating.

Those departments that must be inside for the sale will use only the large rooms of the church to accommodate social distancing.

That means we will not use any classrooms.

Not all departments will be able to participate in this sale because of the lack of our usual amount of space. We may defer some departments until the Holiday Sale in November, or we may come up with some other way to put their merchandise on sale.

With those guidelines in mind, two sub-committees were formed, one to plan layout and space requirements and the other to prepare for the protocols we will need to have in place.

Let's hope that by the time another Valley Voice is written we will have better conditions under which to plan.

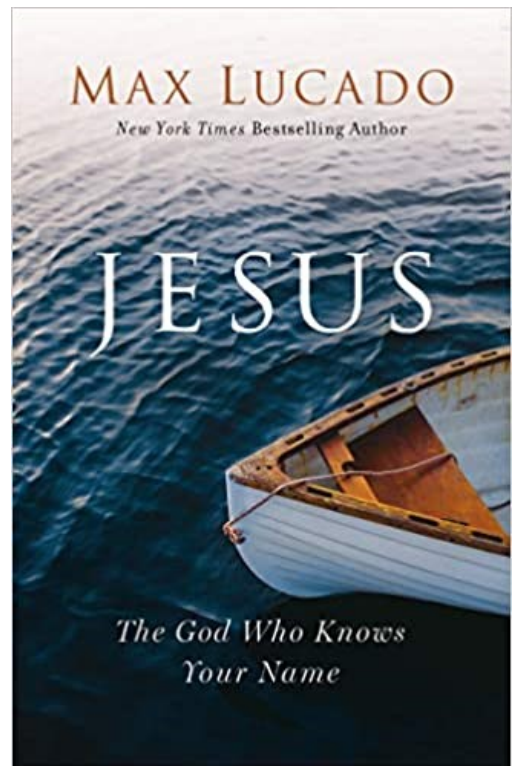


Lenten Class:
Jesus: The God Who Knows Your Name
Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m. by Zoom
Starting February 24 and running for 6 weeks

For thirty-three years Jesus felt everything you have ever felt. Weakness. Weariness. Sadness. Rejection. His feet got tired. And his head ached. He was tempted and his strength was tested. And you know why? Because in becoming human, Jesus made it possible for us to see God. His tears, God's tears. His voice, God's voice. Want to know what matters to God? Find out what matters to Jesus. Want to know what in the world God is doing? Ponder the words and life of Jesus.

This class, based on the book by Max Lucado, will explore the life of Jesus by looking at specific details: how he interacted with his friends and his enemies, what he did with time alone, how he acted at a party. Max writes, "Don't settle for a cursory glance or a superficial understanding. Look long into the heart of Christ and you'll see it. Grace and life. Forgiveness of sin. The defeat of death. This is the hope he gives."

To register and if you have any questions on how to Zoom, contact Pastor Diane (pastordiane@valleypres.net; 625-5023). Books are \$16, and can be purchased in the church office.
Your teacher: Diane Christopher



Living is an Adventure—Covid Update

Peter Pan is famous for saying “to live would be an adventure”. This represents the last year from March 2020 and on. It has and still is an adventure and to many, extremely overwhelming. No one saw such a devastating Pandemic coming. Now almost a year later, lives are lost to COVID, positive cases are extremely high now after the Holidays, ICU and hospitals are full, businesses have been lost and emotions of loss, grief and fear surround us. COVID statistics have been a focus on every news channel since last March. Now with the news reporting on vaccines and changing time lines and ages, this has become concerning to many.

Pima County is accepting reservations for eligible recipients at the following web site. www.pima.gov/covid19vaccine Being informed about the most current information on COVID and the vaccine is essential. These websites are also good resources to use, www.azdhs.gov and www.cdc.gov. Many questions are surfacing regarding the vaccinations here in Pima County. The local Santa Cruz Regional Hospital is looking at being a site for the vaccinations. More information about this will be coming. The vaccinations have phases of who receives and when. The vaccines are given in two doses, several weeks (4 – 6 weeks) apart.

COVID is thought to be spread from person to person through respiratory droplets, coughing, sneezing, talking and even singing (which can reach a distance greater than 6 feet). Some of these droplets can stay on an object/ surface and live for short periods of time. Masks should be wore and fit snugly around the nose and chin, not under the nose since COVID is spread from droplets. The CDC does not recommend using face shields or goggles as a substitute for masks. Please reference the CDC website for more use on face shields and masks. Receiving a vaccine does not eliminate the need for wearing a mask, hand sanitation or distancing of 6 feet.

Some of the symptoms may look to be the same as a cold or the flu: fever or chills, cough, fatigue, muscle or body aches, sore throat, headache, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea. The symptoms, besides these listed, that they are being seen in COVID are shortness of breath and new loss of taste or smell. Some have tested positive without symptoms. Please stay home if you are ill or not feeling well. Talk to your healthcare provider if you are not feeling well and have any symptoms. Some of the effects have been noticed are in issues with cardiac, senses, blood clots, slowed thinking or “brain fog” and fatigue. There are now many testing sites in Pima County. The Pima County website listed above lists

Con’t

Covid con't



where they are each day. Many are by appointment. Please call them first to register and verify. If you have been exposed to someone with COVID, self-isolate and call your healthcare provider. If you have tested positive with COVID, please test again after the 14 days.

If you are attending Valley Presbyterian Church, temperature screenings, hand sanitation and check in desks are in place for safety for you and others. Life is an adventure, and is always keeping us on our toes. But with good resources and helpful information, you can make informed decisions about your health. We have to remain positive and remember to smile and enjoy the present moments.

Please stay safe and stay healthy.

Anyone Up For A Challenge

A long standing member of our church wishes to challenge all of us to help feed all of GOD'S people. This member of VPC is very concerned that many families may be going hungry during this COVID crisis.

In 2020:

*298,986 Food boxes were distributed

*191,230 Families were given hunger relief

*900,000 Servings of fresh locally grown produce were available

*16% Were seniors

*33%. Were children



The challenge is to match this member's donation of \$500 to get us started, and then \$100 per month as long as they live. Wow what a powerful Affirmation. So, if you are able, give to the food bank by sending a check to Valley Presbyterian Church and write "Food Bank" on the memo line. If you can make it monthly, all the better!

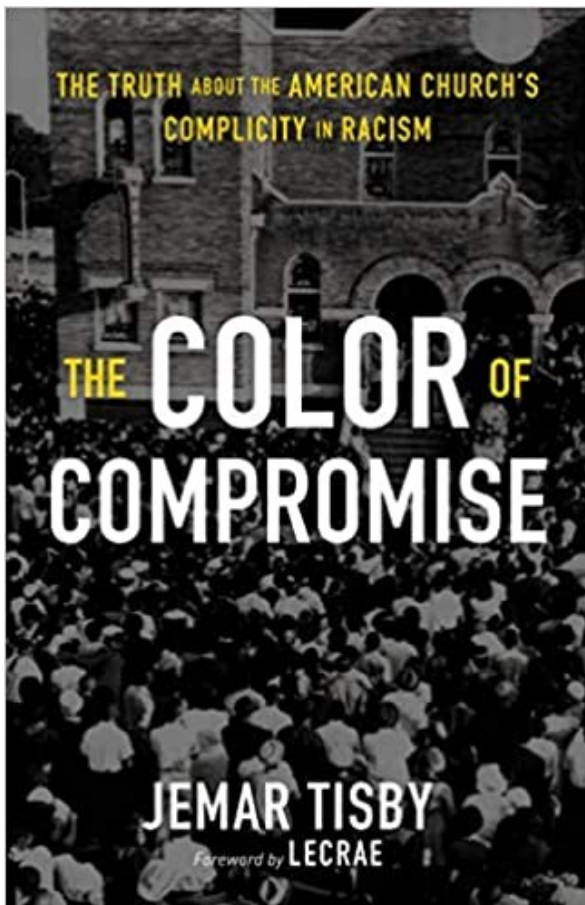
The picture is of a similar group who decided to challenge GVR members to give, and make it a friendly competition.

Many Ways to Learn and Grow

The Color of Compromise by Jemar Tisby **A Study of Race in the Church and Ways to Build an Inclusive Church**

Thursdays from 1:00pm-2:30pm beginning Feb 25th and concluding May 6th (11 weeks)

During this past summer of the Black Lives Matter rallies, I struggled to understand what was happening, why it was happening, and how the American Dream has gone so wrong for minorities and people of color. I pledged then to become part of the solution in what ever way I could, and, to learn, to grow in understanding about how we arrived here at this point in history. I want to learn how to move forward to create a country of justice for all, and, to share the love of God as the most important goal of my life. To that end, I began exploring books available to help me learn. I have chosen The Color of Compromise as a group study. I value the input from my Christian community, so that we can grow and learn together.



From the Amazon page: The Color of Compromise is both enlightening and compelling, telling a history we either ignore or just don't know. Equal parts painful and inspirational, it details how the American church has helped create and maintain racist ideas and practices. You will be guided in thinking through concrete solutions for improved race relations and a racially inclusive church.

Before we can move forward, we need to understand how we have arrived at this place in history.

Please join me for this study through ZOOM. We will meet on Thursdays from 1-2:30pm beginning Feb 25th and concluding May 6th (11 weeks). Pastor Diane Christopher will have the books in her office. Books are \$14

To register, email me at tubacgee@gmail.com. I will then send you the Zoom link. Gee-Gee Smith

Many Ways to Learn and Grow

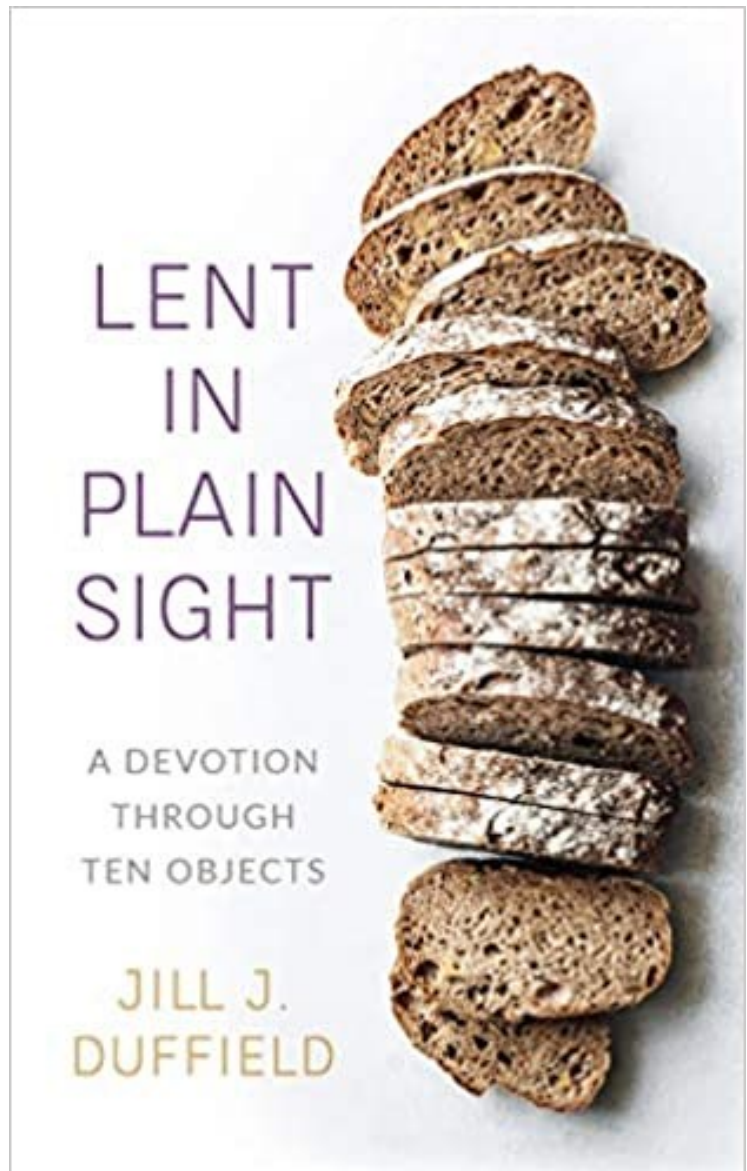
Lenten Class: Lent in Plain Sight A Devotion Through Ten Objects Mondays, 1:00 p.m. by Zoom Starting February 22 and running 6 weeks

God is often at work through the ordinary: ordinary people, ordinary objects, ordinary grace. It is through the mundane that we hear God's quiet voice.

Based on the book by Jill Duffield, *Lent in Plain Sight* draws on ten objects that Jesus would have encountered on his way to Jerusalem: dust, bread, the cross, coins, shoes, oil, coats, towels, thorns, and stones. In each object, you will find meaning in the biblical account of Jesus' final days. Each week, you will encounter a new object to consider through Scripture, prayer, and reflection, and in those ordinary things be reminded of the abundant life that Jesus offers.

To register and if you have any questions on how to Zoom, contact Pastor Diane (pastordiane@valleypres.net; 625-5023). Books are \$11, and can be purchased in the church office.

Your teacher: Linda Norman




Birthdays for February

Ronald Row	02/01
Nancy Gray	02/01
Joyce C. Thompson	02/02 *
David Rude	02/03**
Phillip Conklin	02/03
John Pyburn	02/03
Trudy (Gertrude) O'Leary	02/03
Henry Huber	02/04 *
Virginia Downs	02/04
Douglas Crosby	02/04
Marlene Farver	02/07
Jane Hamby	02/07
Betty (Margaret) Everett	02/08 *
James E. Coberly	02/08
Heather Macleod	02/08
Patricia Rice	02/08
April Bondy	02/09
Vernon Feil	02/11
Darlene Herrick	02/11
Diana Montgomery	02/12
Ann Erickson	02/13
Ivan L. Berry	02/13
John Pavlick	02/14
Eloise Fredrickson	02/15

SPECIAL BIRTHDAY MILESTONES!

Happy 90th Birthday!

David Rude, Betty Clapp & Marian Fjare



Barbara Richards	02/16
Jerry Wilhems	02/16
Nancy Moses	02/16
Valerie St John	02/16
Jessie Setterlund	02/16
Lawrence E. Brock	02/18
Molly Andrews	02/19
Sue Horton	02/19
Enid Waldron	02/20 *
Geraldine Wigent	02/21
Louise Martin	02/22
Lila Plattner	02/24 *
Joseph A. Bruce, Sr.	02/24
Katherine Rusk	02/25
Linda Landon	02/25
Betty Clapp	02/26 **
Marian Fjare	02/26 **
William Karbowsky	02/26
Gayle Lafferty	02/27
Pamela Hopper	02/27
Brandon Jones	02/27
David A Brubaker	02/28

** indicates turning 90
* indicate age in their 90's



More Bloggers Wanted (15 and counting)

A blogger is anyone with access to a computer who can type in bobandkristi.blogspot.com. Have you ever wanted to read a missionary's diary? Consider blogging the real life story of Bob and Kristi Rice who share on a weekly basis the story of God working in their life.

When [Jacob] reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep. He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. There above it stood the Lord... (Genesis 28: 11 – 13a)

When God meets us and speaks to us, the world becomes more brilliant. Such was the case for our brother Jacob when he fled the home of his fathers to find his Uncle Laban. In a dream, God reminds Jacob of who God is, extending the promise to Jacob that had been given to his fathers. Jacob's human pilgrimage shifts.

For years, Kristi and I have been in the habit of "retreating" from the cares of normal life, setting ourselves apart in lonely places where we can think, meditate, walk, write, and pray. Earlier this month, we took several days to do just that. As our favorite retreat center was closed, we chose an inviting Airbnb in a neighboring town called Eureka. Close to our abode was a nice lake, walking trails, and a labyrinth. On our first day, Kristi spent time at the labyrinth, praying that God would help her live a life of faithfulness. She prayed that God would give her a sign in the form of seeing an owl. Later, as this glorious autumnal day was coming to a close, we walked by the lake. "Hoot hoot...Hoot hoot" we heard just overhead. We scanned the trees to no avail. As we turned and looked out over the lake, a large presence flew overhead, wings flapping with equanimity and tremendous force. An owl.

Each day I holed myself up in the frigid upstairs of this humble 1920's era home. I was reading and writing "memories," a project Kristi and I are working on with

Bob and Kristi Rice can't



Working upstairs on memories (not much heat!)

a friend, hopefully in time yielding a memoir. I am currently writing experiences from Rwanda. It feels amazing to look back on those years, seeing pieces connect in new ways. For instance, I could see more clearly now how God had orchestrated my time there, namely my choice to stay longer. Yes, it was a choice, but God gave a "light touch" in fashioning my path.

It was a joy to re-read these memories, and to write new ones. It made me felt more integrated, more whole. I spent time at the labyrinth where daily I saw a woodpecker as together we enjoyed a wondrous grove of elms. I also spent time reflecting on the life of Nehemiah, how he spent his "social capital" on the needs of the poor and marginalized Israelites dwelling in destroyed Jerusalem. "Oh Lord," I prayed, "how can I use my 'social capital' to help others, especially the poor and the marginalized?"

Kristi walked along the shores of the lake on a bright morning, feeling the crunch of the leaves underfoot and the brisk wind on her face. She worshipped and prayed, watching the geese on the water and the juncos in the bushes, allowing the peace and glory of nature to restore her spirit, connecting her with the Lord of creation. Later she meandered through a cemetery, noting names and dates, imagining life from ages past. A large tree stood near the graves, the long roots entangling and pushing up the graves, a reminder of the brevity of life and our need for God's perspective.

Jacob called the place where God met with him "Bethel," meaning "the house of God." After several days of retreat at our Airbnb, we left Eureka, our earthly loads lighter and our world a bit brighter. We all need a house where we can go and meet with God.

The past blogs read like a real life novel, chronicling God in action through the writings of Bob and Kristi Rice. Please join me in following and praying for our missionaries and let me know if you have joined the blog brigade by emailing me douglasclark68@me.com .

Pam & Dave L

The Challenge and Opportunity of Covid-19

WE have continued to work hard these last 8-9 months to provide food and other aid to about 20.000 families suffering from lack of work and therefore lack of food in India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh. Our teams have been reaching out to suffering people in villages across these countries, serving and loving them in Jesus's name. We continue to bring relief to those suffering from flooding and disease and bringing hope to many more. Almost 40 years ago Pam and I started serving with OM in India. Now OM has asked us to re-start a ministry focused on 200 unreached Muslima there. Just before COVID-19, I was able to visit and partner with National Indian Ministries. While I was there, I was deeply inspired by my visit to the church William Carey started about 200 years ago in Kolkata which serves like a light on a hilltop. Let us live out his moto: "Expect great things from God, attempt great things for God".

Thank you for your faithful support and prayers,

Pam and Dave L

St. Andrews Children's Clinic

Submitted by Kay Brouwer

The St. Andrews' Clinic staff is continuing to work hard to figure out how best to help the children in Mexico. There has been a big rise in the number of Covid-19 cases in Nogales, Sonora. St. Andrews' is sending medications whenever possible. There is no "in person" treatment; all help is given online or via telephone. The flights to Shriners' hospitals in Seattle and Spokane have been canceled. Things might improve when vaccines are widely distributed, hopefully this summer.

St. Andrews' staff is spending time reorganizing the ways the clinic can function when it does open. They realize that the programs will be offered in a very different way than they were in the past. However, services will continue to be provided to the families of suffering children in Mexico.

Crossroads Mission, Nogales AZ

Submitted by Joan Bolin

. On January 11, 2021, via my phone call to Ben Wenke, Co-Director of Crossroads Mission, the following information was received:

All Crossroads Mission's facilities are open and functioning at this time. A new furnace is being installed in one of the women's transitional houses. Ben has hired a lady, who lives at one of the transitional houses, to work in the kitchen preparing food.

The Mission served 125 Christmas ham dinners on December 19, 2020.

Due to the coronavirus this total is about half of what is usually served. The dinners were all packaged in clamshell containers to take home.

The Mission saw a nice uptick in monetary giving during the Christmas holiday. The Mission is now out of debt and running in a positive financial position. Thanks goes to members/friends of Valley Presbyterian Church who donated to the Mission. Also, thanks to our church's Mission Committee for voting to send an extra \$500.00 to help Crossroads during the coronavirus pandemic. Ben is happy and thankful for the extra help during the holidays.

On January 21, 2021, Valley Presbyterian's quilting group will donate quilts to the Mission. They will be used at the Mission's facilities and be handed out to needy families.



Casa Vida Nueva para Niños
(children's home)
Submitted by Reed Olson

2020 YE Report

2020 activities were limited due to the prolonged closure of the US/MX border crossing sites throughout the year and COVID-19. All supportive trips to see the children were canceled including the Christmas trip. However, we were able to collect donations to help the children have a good Christmas.

There is good news: The children of Casa Vida Nueva para Niños are doing well because they are blessed with adults who love them, have a roof over their head, plentiful food, great education opportunities (RISE Scholastic Achievements, Inc.), a love of God in their lives, and support from VPC, the Green Valley area and people across the USA; plus, they all get along with each other. This past year, three students enrolled in Universidad (college) majoring in: marketing, robotic engineering, and nursing; five students in preparatoria school (high school - at a cost of \$560 USD per child) and eleven in Secundaria (junior high school). RISE also donated 6 new laptop computers for the children to use as they remote learn from home.

Elias Herrera, Director of the Home, created two short, year-end videos (that will be loaded onto the RISE web site in February, 2021). The first video shows the initial construction phase of their new basketball court. The second video personalizes how grateful the children are for the support they have received from the Green Valley, AZ community and throughout the USA. This month's report announces that the children are healthy (no COVID) and are well taken care of. Please keep the children in your prayers. Let's hope the 4th quarter of 2021 will allow us to start our visits again. The children miss us and we miss the children. Thank you for your continued support.

For updates on this mission and to see the new videos, go to www.risesa.org





THANK YOU!!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN MAKING YOUTH ON THEIR OWN'S "SPREAD THE WARMTH" Christmas campaign a huge SUCCESS! YOTO was able to give each of their students \$80 in this unique holiday season. Our mission committee donated \$400, and individual church members made generous donations to help make this happen. THANK YOU!!

INSPIRATIONAL CARD MAKING



Our inspirational card making for Youth on Their Own students scheduled for Wednesday, January 27 will be done virtually. **Whether we will meet in person for our Wednesday, February 24th meeting will be decided as we get closer to that date.** A SPECIAL THANK YOU to ladies who have been making many cards at home during the Covid pandemic.

Submitted by Mary Horn,
Mission Committee Liaison to
YOTO

Caring for those in our congregation:
Congregational Care
Faith & Health/Parish Nurse News February 2021



Many of our classes are still on hold as the COVID-19 Pandemic continues.

We will continue to update you with more information when it is safe to resume these.



Congregational Care is creating ways for our church to continue its care to others and to address the needs we are seeing.

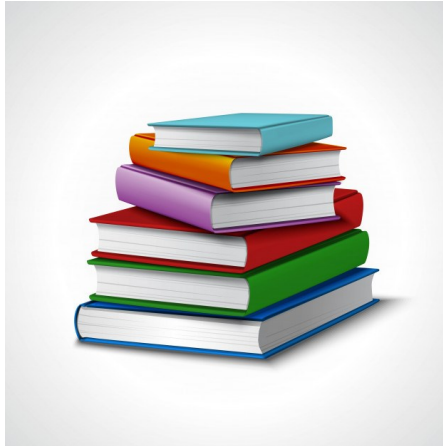
Connections, during this time, are also essential for those to receive socialization and to know others care. Keep communications with friends, neighbors, and family during this time. Please let us know any concerns or needs that we may be able to help with.

Keeping active, during this time of COVID, helps to stay positive and healthy. As soon as we are safe and vaccines are distributed for COVID, we will be looking at new exercise programs here at VPC.



What happens when these socialization links are missing? Social isolation contributes to devastating health issues. Social isolation may act on your health like smoking 14 cigarettes a day.

Valley Readers
2:00 PM – Tuesday, February 9, 2021
By ZOOM



Valley Readers will meet via **Zoom** on February 9 at 2 pm. In lieu of a book discussion, attendees will (if they wish) talk about a book that they recommend for others to read. Depending on the number of attendees each discussion may be limited in time duration. Future plans will also be discussed. If you are not on the Valley Readers mailing list and you would like to attend please contact Liz Haynes at ehaynes62@mac.com so that you can receive a Zoom link. Contact Anne Morrison for additional information at 520-399-0762.

Exploring Membership Class
Wednesdays, February 3 and 10
10:00 – 11:30 a.m. in Classroom 5
Thursday, February 25, 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

In this extraordinary year, we offer a shorten New Member class for those of you interested in becoming a member of Valley Presbyterian Church. The class is designed to answer your questions and take you through the steps toward membership. You will meet the pastors and staff and discover what makes this Body of Christ unique. Safety protocols will be in place.

Contact Pastor Diane Christopher with any questions and/or to register: pastordiane@valleypres.net, or 625-5023.

Being Presbyterian – Officers of the Church

Linda Freeman

This series of articles is meant to explain certain bits about how the Presbyterian church is organized. This month, we look at the ordained laypersons of the congregation – Elders and Deacons.

A member becomes ordained through a process: at the time of nomination, the Nominating Committee informs the member about the responsibilities of the position. Then there is an election by the congregation. It culminates with a worship service during which those elected answer certain questions and make promises concerning their duties as an Elder or Deacon. Others who have been ordained also participate by surrounding the officers with prayer and support. The new officers are trained and begin their duties.

Elders are called to strengthen and nurture Christian faith in congregations and to exercise spiritual oversight over the life and work of the church. They serve on the Session.

Deacons are charged with ministries of care, witness, and service. They serve on the Board of Deacons.

More than just volunteering to help in the church, becoming an officer recognizes that the person has been “called by God through the voice of this congregation.”

Over the years I have grown so much in my understanding of these positions. Here some of my observations:

I recognized God’s “call” to me as an Elder only by looking back over the years. At the time I agreed to serve as a Clerk, for example, I was just saying yes to what I realized I’d be willing to do.

When I was ordained, I was the third female Elder in the history of my congregation.

Back then, people reasoned that women should be Deacons because they were more “caring” than men.

Being an officer of the church does not make you better, more faithful, or more apt to know what is right than anyone else. It just means you have more opportunities to practice your faith by working with others as we each develop in discipleship.

Next month’s article will look at the specific work of the Session and the Board of Deacons.





Notes from the Music Team

We have some exciting “Music In The Valley” News!

In December, we were able to perform a safe and socially-distanced musical concert!

Special thanks to those that not only attended, but also made our time together safe, positive, and successful. Due to this success, we have added TWO concerts to the schedule for our “Music In The Valley” Concert Series!

Saturday, February 27 @ 3:00

An afternoon of

“Latin-Inspired Music”

The works of Ginastera, Rota, Piazzolla, Lauro, and Granados,
& Popular Jazz Standards!

Styles such as Classical, Jazz, Bossa Nova, Samba, and Tango

Featuring:

Phil Evans, Clarinet

Robert Marshall, Cello

Jamie Reed, Piano

Friday, April 2 @ 5:00

Wes Moulton, Organ

Tenebrae, Latin for “Darkness”, is a word used to describe a group of daily services, dating from the ninth century, that take place at the end of Holy Week, taking a liturgical journey through the events of Jesus’ Passion. This year, Wes will present a contemplative concert; made up of musical selections, readings, and scripture; taking us on this journey, on Good Friday, April 2nd, at 5:00PM.

Please make reservations for both concerts at jamie@valleypres.net

A love offering will be accepted at both concerts.

Women's Ministries

Women's Ministries will not have a Gathering in February. Normally we would be having our Patio Sale Style Show – we now hope to have that in the fall so stay tuned for news in that direction later on in the year. Please remember that Pastor Diane Christopher records a video lesson each month from this year's Bible study, *Into the Light*. This year's study focuses on lamenting – a timely topic if ever there was one. The video lessons are available to everyone through the Women's Ministries video link on the main church webpage. We encourage you to use this resource.



Because we are not having our Gatherings at the present time, we encourage women who normally attend to consider making a donation along the lines of what you would normally contribute to the Gathering offering. You can mail checks to Gee-Gee Smith, P.O. Box 4709, Tubac, AZ 85646-4709 or drop them off at the church.

We will be starting a new project soon by collecting smaller pieces of luggage suitable for use by children. Look for upcoming news about that in the E-blast and the Valley Voice.

Stephen Ministries

What I needed the most was her unconditional love—to know that no matter what I shared with her, no matter what I'd done, she cared for me. Her care showed God's love for me.”—a Care Receiver



Are you trying to cope with changes in your life? Being isolated for almost a year? Loss of a friend or loved one? Would you like someone to listen to you as you sort out emotional and spiritual concerns? Even though we had to cancel our class for new Stephen Ministers this winter due to COVID concerns, VPC still has a terrific team of Stephen Ministers trained to walk with people going through a difficult time. It can either be in person with masks or by phone or ZOOM. Contact the church office, a pastor, or Peggi Briggs (our referrals coordinator at 965-9203) to receive confidential care.



Network of Caring (NOC) started in 1979 to enable members and visitors to become better acquainted with other members of the congregation through phone calls, letters, or emails, and by meeting together in small neighborhood groups. NOC has grown in its ministry as the church and community have grown and changed. NOC now has 20 areas. We endeavor to minister to and with each other; to share in joyous occasions and to respond in times of need; to care for and about each other in a significant and mean-

ingful way. God has truly blessed this caring ministry.

NOC is needed now more than ever during this time of the social distancing with the COVID Pandemic. We may not be able to meet in small groups in person, but phone calls, letters and emails are essential. Neighborhood Contacts are continuing to make calls and letting those know we care for them. Thank you to all those who make calls, and contacts, and those in this ministry: the Area Leaders as well as the Neighborhood Contacts. If you are interested in participating in NOC as an Area Leader or Neighborhood Contact, please call Jean Hein 520-625-1489.

Philippians 2:4 Everyone should look out not only for his own interests but also for the interests of others

The next meeting of the NOC Leadership team will be held February 2nd at 11 AM.



Prayer Requests

Prayers are powerful. Prayer bears and prayer shawls have comforted many, even across the U.S. They carry wonderful and powerful prayers with them and can be delivered to those who need to be held up in prayer.

Please let the church know if someone might need them.



Looking for a new Bible study this spring? Look no further! Explore the pivotal moments in the book of Exodus in [*Delivered out of Empire*](#) by Walter Brueggemann. Discover the stories of the women of the New Testament in [*From Daughters to Disciples*](#) by Lynn Japenga. And fight against the inaccurate stereotypes of the Old Testament in [*Lies My Preacher Told Me*](#) by Brent Strawn. Save 35% when you order from PC(USA) Store!

